

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 103791

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, SN

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHT INQUIRY: EXPORT OF HUMAN TISSUE

1. DEPT (HA ASST SECY DERIAN) HAS RECEIVED CORRESPONDENCE CITING ARTICLE WRITTEN BY FLORA HASS (IN PHOENIX MAGAZINE) ASSERTING THAT US COMPANIES ARE IMPORTING HUMAN FETAL PARTS SPECIFICALLY, IN MOST CASES, KIDNEYS FROM KOREA, SINGAPORE AND SWITZERLAND FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES. KOREA HAS REPORTEDLY CEASED THE PRACTICE, BUT DID EXPORT TISSUE CULTURES AND PREPARED MICROSCOPIC SLIDES (BUT NOT FETUSES) IN THE PAST. FETUSES OBTAINED THROUGH ABORTION PRACTICES (SALINE SOLUTION ETC.) ARE NOT SUITABLE AND CAESARIAN SECTION ABORTION, PROBABLY IN THE THIRD TRIMESTER IS USED. ARTICLE AND RELATED CORRESPONDENCE IMPLY THAT TISSUE EXPORTS CONTINUE FROM SINGAPORE.

2. THE US HAS DEVELOPED UNIFORM DONOR REGULATIONS (US UNIFORM ANATOMICAL GIFT ACT) WHICH INVOLVE THE PERMISSION OF THE MOTHER IN THE CASE OF DONATIONS OF FETAL TISSUE
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FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES.

3. IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO CRITICAL QUERIES, DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ASCERTAINING WHETHER A) SINGAPORE CURRENTLY EXPORTS FETAL TISSUE TO THE UNITED STATES FOR

PURPOSES OF MEDICAL RESEARCH, B) WHETHER SINGAPOREAN

LAW REQUIRES THAT THE MOTHER GIVE CONSENT TO THE USE
OF FETUSES FOR SUCH PURPOSES, AND C) WHETHER IN THE
ABSENCE OF SUCH A LAW, THE MOTHER IN FACT IS ASKED TO
GIVE CONSENT. IN ADDITION, IF ANY STATISTICS CAN BE
READILY OBTAINED IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KNOW THE NUMBER
OF CAESARIAN SECTION ABORTIONS PERFORMED ANNUALLY IN
SINGAPORE PARTICULARLY THE PROPORTION IN THE THIRD
TRIMESTER. CHRISTOPHER

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